

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 8 MAY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to announce that Tom Honiball, ZS5VK, passed away on Thursday the 5th May after his health deteriorated during the last year or so. Tom was a versatile man, inter alia a private pilot, an innovative and succesful farmer and the doyen of a large amateur radio family. To his wife Francis, ZS5VL, and all their relatives and many friends, our deepest sympathy. (PAUSE).

In the news today:

SENTECH AMSATCON 2005 NEXT SATURDAY 14 MAY, DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING CONFERENCE

CALL ZS6SRL NEXT SATURDAY

FEDERAL AGENTS ARREST ALLEGED CALIFORNIA JAMMER

REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS TO CHECK EMAIL ADDRESSES

HAMNET COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English, but please double check any all figures very well, the editor can readily correct text but cannot do so with most figures.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news follows in detail:

SENTECH AMSATCON 2005 NEXT SATURDAY 14 MAY, DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING CONFERENCE

There are a few days left to book for the Sentech AMSATCON 2005. The programme caters for a variety of interests. Visit the SA AMSAT web site for

full details at www.amsatsa.org.za or send an email to saamsat@intekom.co.za and request that a programme be emailed or faxed to you. You can also arrive on the day but will pay more. The lower rate is effective till Wednesday when the final number has to be supplied to the caterers. Bookings can be made by email or fax and payment at the lower rate can be made on the day.. There are 5 Satellite Handbooks to be awarded to lucky delegates.

Some of the programme highlights include:

The conference will be opened by Dr Bethuel Schlapelo, Group Executive Frontier Science, Department of Science and Technology who will deliver the keynote address.

Dave Long, ZS5FR, will present the history of amateur satellites and a paper on how to get started.

BPL will come under the spotlight and the Rocketry Association will show how they can work with the BACAR team to launch interesting projects high-up in the sky.

The AMSAT DL mission to Mars will be discussed as well as new satellites including the newly launched Indian Hamsat.

Gerald Klatzko will show how you can build a tracking device to get your antenna in position and Prof Alex Antonites will take us on a journey to search for new civilisations many thousand of light years away.

The Annual General meeting will follow the conference.

CALL ZS6SRL NEXT SATURDAY

The launch of the National Science Week 2005 is a culmination of a long process of intense nation-wide consultations and negotiations by the Department of Science and Technology with a number of role players involved with the education of our youth in science and technology. "We are part of this and will demonstrate Amateur Radio on Saturday 14 May at the new Science Centre being established at the Newtown cultural precinct in Johannesburg", Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, President of the South African Radio League said.

The intention of the National Science Week is to showcase, celebrate, and inspire innovation in science, engineering and technology. There will be various activities throughout this week promoting interest in Science and Technology. "The SARL will be operating a VHF and UHF station from the actual space where eventually a complete amateur radio display and station will be built", Graham said.

"I encourage radio amateurs in VHF/UHF reach to make contact with ZS6SRL and demonstrate to visitors what amateur radio is about." This is only the start", Graham said. "We have extensive plans for the amateur radio section at the science centre which includes the training of the young science communicators who operate as guides to become licensed operators.

FEDERAL AGENTS ARREST ALLEGED CALIFORNIA JAMMER

Reputed Los Angeles area repeater jammer and former Amateur Radio licensee, Jack Gerritsen is behind bars and off the air today. Acting on a May 4 criminal complaint, FBI Special agents accompanied by FCC personnel from the FCC Los Angeles Field Office arrested Gerritsen with out incident early May 5 at his home in Bell, California. Federal agents also are reported to have confiscated Gerritsen's radio equipment. (ARRL)

May this never be reported about a Radio Amateur in South Africa. Jamming is also a felony here.

REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS TO CHECK EMAIL ADDRESSES

The SARL office will shortly be sending out membership invoices for the 2005/2006 year. Invoices will be sent by email to all members for whom a valid email address is available. This saves the SARL a substantial amount in printing and postage costs. All members are kindly requested to check that their email addresses on the SARL database are correct. This can be done by logging on to the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za and looking up your entry via the callbook. Corrections can be advised to Vee by email at admin@sarl.org.za or via fax to 011 675 2793.

EXAMINATION NUMBERS FOR THE MAY RAE

Examination numbers and information on examination centres for the May 2005 RAE is available on the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za.

Full details will soon be mailed to all candidates.

HAMNET COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

An official HAMNET communications exercise will be conducted over the weekend of 13 to 15 May 2005 in the Cape Town, Ceres, De Doorns and Worcester Area.

Various role players will be invited to take part and make the exercise as realistic as possible.

HF frequencies being used are: 3,650 MHz, 3,695 MHz and 7,070 MHz LSB for local command and control, while 10,130 MHz and 14,225 MHz USB will be used to provide a monitoring action for Director HAMNET in Johannesburg. Above mentioned are all \pm QRM.

VHF repeater frequencies to be used are 145,650 (Hawaquas), 145.675 (Jonaskop), 145,775 (Tygerberg), as well as 145,250 and 145.300 MHz simplex.

Hams are welcome to monitor, but requested to keep the frequencies clear to enable speeding message handling.

An orientation course in disaster related communications starts on 13 May 2005 at 18:30B, with the communications exercise starting the next day where stu-

dents will put theory into practice. The main controlling station will be located at Rawsonville, just outside the intended disaster area.

HF LETTER FROM THE USA

Bernard, ZS4BDK, has sent a long letter about his HF e-mail procedures in the USA and I quote.

“On my recent travels throughout the USA, I often needed to have Internet accessibility for E-mail. Normally, this would be no problem’ as there are numerous ways to connect to Internet over here. Telephone modems, cable modems, 802.11B Wifi access points, cell phone service connections etc.

To do Ham Radio E-mail with the Winlink2000 system from the bundu’s, I recently bought an older, used Kantronics Kam+ HF Modem (TNC), for only \$130. (And that was high.)

New Pactor 2 or 3 TNC’s retail for about \$700 to \$1200, and are not available on the used market, yet. They are also only manufactured by a German company, which has the monopoly in this field.

I hope the price of my used TNC, is good news for the poorer sailor or caravaner with more energy than money....=).

Although the Kam+ only supports Pactor 1, I am still able to connect to many Winlink2000 PMBO’s (Participating Mail Box Offices) here in the USA and the Caribbean, and post and get my E-mail this way.

Some PMBO’s now start moving away from Pactor 1 only, and only accept Pactor 2/3 connects, for faster connections, but many still do accept slower Pactor 1 connects. These Pactor 2/3 TNC’s are expensive and proprietary hardware, which makes Ham radio more expensive and is contrary to the mood and spirit of pure Ham Radio. Pure E-mail of short lengths (a paragraph or two) is still good with Pactor 1, using these old Kam TNC’s, as many PMBO’s supporting Pactor 1 could still be found around here.

I can send and receive fairly long E-mails, the length of this post, in only 30 seconds or so. - Good enough if you just want E-mail from the system (and no pictures).

I used Windows Hyperterminal to reset and setup my Kam+, and I use the Airmail3 E-mail client for Winlink2000.

- Just downloaded the GOES Color Infra Red satellite image off Airmail’s catalog. Huge file for Pactor 1 (18KB). Took about 20 minutes over a nice, clear HF SSB Pactor 1 connection to a Winlink PMBO (Participating Mail Box Office) about 1000 miles away on 20m.”

For those who wish to have more information, Bernard can be contacted at zs4bdk@hotmail.com

PROPAGATION REPORT

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reports that the past week was marked by reasonable conditions which varied from reasonable to weak. Important is the fact that DX can still be done. Locally the 20 m band was very good at times - especially in a North - South direction. The sunspot number increased further to 64,0 on Thursday compared to last week's 42,9. It is expected that it now begin to decrease with accompanying weaker conditions. Activity on the sun's surface was low with only three really active areas (Thursday). The expected average sunspot number for May is estimated at 22,0 compared to last year's 43,8.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Week starting 8 May - Look out for the special APRS hot air balloon station, ZS6HOT; 13-15 May- Hamnet Communication Exercise in Western Cape; 14 May - AMSATCON 2005; 14 May - Contact ZS6SLR at the Science Centre; 19 May - Radio Amateur Examination; 21 May - East Rand Fox hunt with bigger prizes; 29 May - President's net and INTECHNET; 31 May - closing date for part 2 of the 2005 Construction Competition; 16 June - SARL Youth Day.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 810, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX